

## Tuarascáil an Rúnaí/Secretary's Report 2012

**Fáilte chuig Cruinniú Ginearálta Bliantúil dhá mhíle is a dó dhéag de Cumann Oisín Lúthcleas Gael agus go raibh maith agaibh as teacht.**

**Welcome to the Cumann Oisín Lúthchleas Gael 2012 Annual General Meeting and thank you all for coming.**

I begin my 2012 Secretary's Report with remembrance of our most esteemed juvenile hurler Ciaran Fyfe, who sadly passed away on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May this year. I take this opportunity to thank everyone for showing their respect and thoughtfulness to our U16 hurling team and mentors Eddie Haughey and David Burns and especially to Ciaran's family. Our condolences will remain with the Fyfe family always. Ar dheis Dé go raibh Ciarán agus gach ball de Chumann Oisín atá ar shlí na Fírinne. May Ciaran and all deceased Oisín Gaels rest in peace.

2012 saw great sadness for Oisín CLG, but we also seen many happier events of being part in our big GAA family, promoting Culture and Gaelic Games at the core of our Irish identity. Last Sunday in Rasharkin I was very proud to see the juveniles of our club representing Oisín CLG at the Scór na nÓg County Finals, with their Irish Dancing, Instrumental Music and Song. It is a credit to the children and their teachers Sylvia McKavanagh, Christine McSparran, Chrissie O'Connor and Emer Carroll on reaching the finals. We are indebted to them for their participation. Maith Siad.

In Gaelic games I feel that it is important that I share this year's accolades with you:

- Starting with Girls Gaelic Football U8 – U12 teams, they competed in monthly blitzes at different venues. Maeve Gillan, Cáitlin O'Boyle and Claire Emerson are in the current U13 Development Squads and Niamh McIntosh is a member of the U14 County Team who reached the finals of The Ulster Championship. Teams took part in the U14 & U16 All County Leagues, both finishing mid table. The U16 team reached the final of the County Antrim Championship.
- Young hurlers and camogs up to U10, attended many games, tournaments, indoor competitions and blitzes in high numbers, from February through to September. The U6's played against Cushendun, Cushendall, Ballycastle and Loughgiel and remained undefeated. The U10's reached an indoor final and were unlucky to lose as they were leading with two minutes remaining. They, being a very young U10 team, also competed brilliantly in The North Antrim Championship. The Oisín Ógs are progressing well thanks to Chris, Cahal, Pat, Paul, Kenny, Johnny, Norris and Conán for their efforts and showing great patience and to everyone who helped out with training, transport, support and Jaffa cakes! The future looks good thanks to our enthusiastic mentors and coaches. However, to take the boys and girls to the next

level three or four more coaches are needed this coming season. Padraig McIlwaine would be very glad to hear from you!

- The U12 Team had a successful year also. They were unbeaten in the U12B League played under go-game rules, won the Div 3 Feis na nGleann ground skills, were the inaugural winners of The Sciath na nÓg Shield on Rathlin Island and reached the final of The North Antrim B Championship. The U12 team made up The St. Patrick's Primary School team, which became the Antrim All County Division 1 Primary School Champions with Caolan O'Connor chosen to play for the Ulster Schools primary school team.
- The U14 Team reached the North Antrim Féile final and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league having just lost 2 games. Alex O'Boyle and Shane O'Connor were invited to join the U14 development squad with Shane playing midfield for Antrim in The Tony Forrestral Cup in Waterford.
- The U16 Team, although a difficult year for them, showed great strength and resilience. They won The North Antrim Championship Cup and were narrowly beaten in the All County Championship final after extra time. A great achievement for the boys. Comhghairdeas
- The young Minor Team were runners up in The North Antrim League and reached the final of The North Antrim Championship which was remarkable, as there were only ten 'out and out' Minors on the panel. Six of the ten are young enough to play Minor next year. Five of the Minor panel went on to make their Senior debuts this year – Patrick Burns, Michael Haughey, Ciaran McKendry, Mark O'Connor & Ryan O'Connor with Eamonn Kearns playing on the County Minor Panel. The 2013 Minor Team will also be a young team and I wish the boys success.
- Our Gaelic 4 Mothers have trained hard this year coached by Brendan Healy and Martin McKendry. The team participated in various games enjoying a recent all-Ireland blitz in Dublin winning all matches, with the exception of one. They also performed well in the Ulster Blitz in Cookstown.
- Our Junior Hurling Team played well and their mentor is happy with their performance however feels that they did not get enough games in 2012. The experience of older players is required in the Junior Team to help bring the younger players through. Maybe this can be considered to help encourage the younger players to advance to senior level.
- The Senior Team, although having played very well in the league, never reached the level required to compete in Division 1 that they aimed for. They faced a difficult year with a number of their top players working across the water. Their best match, the only time they had a full squad, was against the current All Ireland Club

Champions, Loughgiel in the Senior Championship when they put on a great performance. For the future and the incoming year our younger players must be encouraged to come through and get the team back into Division 1. Rami and I would like to thank Padraig, Michael, Johnny and all the players for their effort and time throughout the year. We would also like to wish our two Senior Players Seánán McToal and Mickey Gettens, who are currently involved with the County panel, best of luck for 2013. Rami would also like to extend his best wishes to the incoming Senior Team Manager.

I thank all the club mentors for assisting me with these reports.

To continue with club matters:

Our juveniles are important to us and as a club we have a responsibility to protect our children and to foster an approach to our games that is based on goodwill and mutual respect. Juvenile Mentors and all coaches are required to have Child Protection Certificates and Access NI clearance. I plead to everyone working with children to make certain that they are adequately covered. As well as it is a club responsibility it is also an individual responsibility. You must ask yourself if you are covered.

We are conscious of our duties of the welfare of members and to that end promoted the following in 2012:

- Conor McCafferty ZEST - Talk on Emotional Health, Alcohol and Drugs Abuse, Depression, Eating Disorders and Self Harm.
- Geraldine McDonnell - 'safeTALK' Training Course organised by Oisín CLG in partnership with NHSCT.
- Oisín CLG welcomed Tommy Stevenson and Peter McVeigh to a 'Diet & Health Seminar' held in St Patrick's Primary School.
- Twelve members of Oisín CLG attended a training course in Emergency Life Support Skills, CPR and Automated External Defibrillation in St Patrick's Primary School.
- A First Aid course was run by Joe Dowdall and was attended by 9 club members.

We would like to thank Brenda Carey, Principal of St. Patrick's Primary School who facilitated the different club events over the year.

In addition club premises were made available for external groups, including:

- Olympic Torch Relay drumming sessions.
- 'Just for Girls' and 'Just Young Men' programmes run by Moyle District Council as requested by Cllr. Noreen McAllister. I extend my thanks to Noreen for her praise of the club in the social networking sites.

For Oisín CLG a Club Development Plan is needed for Club Maith accreditation. It was hoped that our Club Maith application would be submitted last year but for many valid reasons this did not happen. It certainly has not been forgotten about and there are still some outstanding elements that require completion. A very important unresolved part of this is the Club Coaching plan. The Club Maith team intends to progress for accreditation in 2013.

As Regards public relations, I thank Michelle O'Toole our PRO for her dedication and commitment. I encourage members to provide, stories, pictures, feedback and information to help the PRO promote the club. Match reports are priceless for individuals and parents and would be welcomed. Like many roles in the club all work cannot be left to one person alone. Our ability relies on more people getting involved at ground-level. The club website was re-launched and Facebook was introduced to promote club activities and despite our fears Facebook has proven to be successful. Long may it last!

Oisín CLG is a busy and vibrant club but it is a matter of great concern that we don't have an active juvenile committee. This places an unfair burden on the club executive and the situation must be resolved for the coming 2013 season. In addition it was disappointing to the club executive that there was poor attendance at monthly club meetings. The modern GAA expects high standards from clubs and we need to challenge ourselves to think differently to find new ways of working together. I trust and hope that the club can achieve this in 2013.

The 'Friends of Glenariffe' continue to raise money for the much needed improved facilities. In Feb 2012 their bank balance was £74,082.00. I congratulate and extend my thanks to 'The Friends of Glenariffe' group for their commitment and hard work during 2012 resulting in a bank balance of £133,000.00 as at 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012. This includes the contributions to the 'Friends of Glenariffe' membership scheme of £25,500.00. The group's target is £200,000. The 'Big Draw' was launched at last year's Dinner Dance. Unfortunately there was a serious lack of support in selling tickets resulting in 'The Friends of Glenariffe' failing to meet their target they had set themselves of a £70,000 profit in this event. If all 5000 tickets had been sold, which was feasible, this would have materialised. I extend my thanks to those who sold tickets across the county in all weathers. It is a credit to you all. Usual marquee and smaller fundraising events are planned for 2013. I wish 'The Friends of Glenariffe' luck and ask that everyone in the club offers this group their full support and assistance. A concerted effort from the club is paramount.

As I am sure most of you are aware I am not standing for the secretary's post next year. I met with The Chairman some time ago explaining my reasons but I am a long standing proud Oisín and I am not going away. I will offer help to the club in 2013 but at present I need a break. I thank Oisín CLG and the GAA in general for the great experience I got working in the association. I thank all my fellow committee members, club officers, sub committees, team mentors, referees, club delegates, the primary school, Mairead Douthart and Fr. White for their assistance and support during my four years as secretary. I know that it is dangerous to name individuals but I feel I must. I thank Kenny McCormack for his assistance with secretarial duties and his patience with me with all things IT. My 'cutting and pasting' was quite dangerous at times but we got there!

I also thank Rami for the all too many “what’s wrong now” telephone calls regarding fixtures and those never ending dreaded re-fixes. If ever there was a need for patience! Thankfully we both sang out of the same hymnbook – supporting and protecting The Senior Team. It was a pleasure working with you Rami and I want to thank you for your help during 2012.

In addition to the many varied duties I had as secretary, I promoted use of the Irish Language and encouraged members to participate in Scór promoting different aspects of our culture. This would not have been possible without the guidance of our Cultural Officer Mairead McMullan using her knowledge of Irish History and fluency in Irish Language. It is an honour to have Mairead in the club and was a pleasure this year to host our 50<sup>th</sup> Feis na nGleann in Glenariffe, the home of The Feis, alongside Mairead. Go raibh míle maith agat Mairead as an chuidiú agus an tacaíocht a thug tú dom sa bhliain dhá mhíle is a dó dhéag.

I am indebted to Hugh and Margaret McIlwaine for the endless support they gave me as club secretary. From my many 7.30am visits on my way to work to my endless telephone requests at unearthly hours, I thank you sincerely. Hugh and Margaret are in many ways the heart of the club and a good club will only function well having hard working individuals and our club is blessed to have them both. Hugh and Margaret McIlwaine’s commitment to the club is invaluable. A special thank you goes to Hugh for his enthusiasm for the Defibrillator introduction into the club.

The duties of the secretary merge with those of The Chairman and it is essential that both work as a team. Niall and I did just that during the past four years. Niall protected and supported me fully as club secretary. He never ever refused to meet me and always treated me with utmost manners and respect. I feel I owe it to Niall and to the incoming club secretary to offer as much help as I can and this is my intention.

I take this opportunity to thank you all sincerely for your assistance during the past four years.

Agus chun chrióchnú, gúim gach rath ar bhainisteoireacht, ar choistí, agus ar fhorine i nda mhíle is a trí déag.

And finally I wish our management, committees and teams success in 2013.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh

Maggie McToal  
Rúnaí

30<sup>th</sup> Samhain 2012